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The heart of the Puritan. Selections from letters and journals. Edited by Elizabeth Deering Hanscom, Ph.D., professor of English, Smith college. (New York: Macmillan company, 1917. 281 p. \$1.50 net)

The supreme duty of the hour is the winning of the war. In the gigantic common effort for that end the historical scholars of the country are taking part along many lines. A goodly number are directly engaged in "war work." Many others are rendering no less valuable service by continuing their labors along the customary lines. Of special value is the production of books and articles which bring to their readers a keener realization of the worth of the ideals for which America stands in the war. Such a service has been well performed by Miss Hanscom in the preparation of *The heart of the Puritan*.

Making bold to take issue with the dictum of Mr. George E. Woodbury that "The heart of the Puritan is a sealed book" Miss Hanscom aims to reveal that heart through a series of excerpts bearing upon the daily life and thought of the puritans. Nearly all the selections are from account books, reports, diaries, and letters written by New England puritans, though a few from non-puritan sources have been included. It is, therefore, by unconscious revelation from within that the puritan heart is to stand revealed. Whether the aim is attained, it would seem to the reviewer, must depend upon the reader. Certainly Miss Hanscom by judicious selection and skillful arrangement has done well her part. The puritans of New England here stand self portrayed. But why should a revelation of the heart of the puritan be limited to the puritans of New England? Puritanism was not confined to New England.

Miss Hanscom has wisely refrained from an excess of editorial annotation, but has not altogether avoided the opposite error. Not all the documents tell their own story. I feel sure that a good many average readers, for whom alone, we are assured, the book is intended, would have welcomed more information in regard to the writers than has been furnished. Despite the protest of Miss Hanscom that titles and editions are caviare to the general, I venture to believe that a good many of those same average readers, inspired by the book into seeking a larger knowledge of the puritans, would have welcomed such information.

FRANK M. ANDERSON

Writings of John Quincy Adams. Edited by Worthington Chauncey Ford. Volume VII, 1820-1823. (New York: Macmillan company, 1917. 516 p. \$3.50.)

In no other volume of *Writings* is the reader so much impressed with the untiring labors of John Quincy Adams. Perplexing questions of the department of state consumed his time and he seemed to disregard

even the heat of Washington summers. Towards the close of August he paused to write, "As the weather is subsiding from fever heat, I have resumed my cravat." These were years when gaps in the *Memoirs* became more frequent, as in volume V, where little is recorded between May 5 and October 7, 1821, and from January 7 to April 1, 1822. On the last of these dates he wrote, "I make one more effort to resume my diary which has now suffered repeated and irreparable interruptions. I abandon definitively the attempt to keep it minute and circumstantial."

The range of subjects discussed in the letters is a wide one. Among them are the Spanish delay in ratifying the treaty of 1819; commercial disputes with France; interchange of proposals for the suppression of the African slave trade; and the claims against British officers for slaves carried away during the late war. During these three years, he gave much thought also to the domestic slave problem; to the consequences of the holy alliance; and to formulating the principles embodied in the Monroe doctrine. A document of outstanding interest, the preparation of it consuming nearly a month's time, contains portions of the instructions to Henry Middleton, minister to Russia. Over and again, he insists that "for the repose of Europe as well as of America, the European and American political systems should be kept as separate and distinct from each other as possible." For more than three years, Adams was occupied in drafting a report on "Weights and measures" which was submitted to the senate on February 22, 1821, and is a striking illustration of his ability as a master of details. Of this he says: "I have no reason to expect that I shall ever be able to accomplish any literary labor more important to the best ends of human exertion, public utility, or upon which the remembrance of my children may dwell with more satisfaction." (*Memoirs* 5: 29, *Letters*, 7: 105-106.) On the same day the exchange of ratifications of the Spanish treaty was made and of these events he wrote, "Two of the most memorable transactions of my life."

Throughout the period, he was testing himself as the probable successor of Monroe. No one knew more than he what his weaknesses as a presidential candidate were. On one page he writes Mrs. Adams, August 11, 1821: "There is not another man in the Union, excepting the Presidents past and present, who receives or continues to receive from the people of this country indications of esteem and confidence more distinguished and flattering than I have." Then he protests, "I am certainly not intentionally repulsive in my manners and deportment, and in my public station I never made myself inaccessible to any human being. But I have no powers of fascination, none of the honey which the profligate proverb says is the true fly-catcher; and be assured, my

dear friend, it would not be good policy for me to affect it. The attempt would make me ridiculous because it would be out of nature." Mrs. Adams was the one critic for whose words he seemed to have respect. He partly reveals himself when he faces the inquiry of his wife on the reason for his frequenting the theater (p. 298). He replied that he could do nothing else with the evening; that the two tickets of admission were the only returns he had from the two shares of stock he possessed in the enterprise and that all his life he had been "extravagantly fond" of that kind of entertainment. But he assures her that while the stage had been a source of amusement for him, he had enjoyed it with discretion and had never met an actress.

J. A. JAMES

Life and letters of John Fiske. By John Spencer Clark. In two volumes. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin company, 1917. 533, 523 p. \$7.50 net)

These two volumes offer an acceptable sketch of one who made a name for himself both in philosophy and history. For the historian the story of Fiske's own fight against the religious traditions of his youthful environment and of his later struggle to gain recognition of his evolutionary theories even among the cultured classes of New England will be found extremely illuminating. The author has told the story well and has shown great industry in collecting the facts. Another phase of this life that is interesting is the excellent sketches of John Fiske's home life, which offer a pleasant picture of a family of a professional man of the last generation.

The author is less happy in his portrayal of Fiske, the historian, for he has made the mistake of supposing his subject a great historian, which he unfortunately was not. Fiske had a pleasing style and one that has given his writings many readers, but his was not the mind of the man of research; he never used the archives in the manner that his contemporary Francis Parkman did, with the result that he has not left his mark on the interpretation of a single period of the history of America. Still, in spite of this exaggerated ideal of Fiske, the author has created a good biography which the reader will find enjoyable reading.

Manuscripts from the Burton historical collection. Collected and published by C. M. Burton. Number 1 - 4. (Detroit, Michigan: October, 1916 — July, 1917, 144 p. \$2.00 per set)

One of the great collections of western Americana is in the Burton historical library, which the patriotic collector has given to his city.